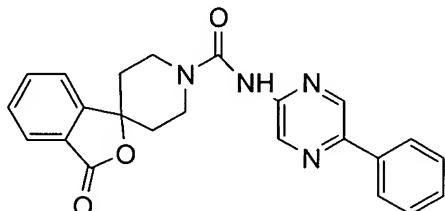


REPLY UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.116
EXPEDITED PROCEDURE
TECHNOLOGY CENTER – 1743

Amendments to the Claims

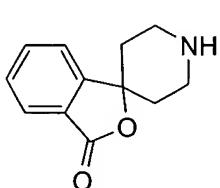
This listing of Claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of Claims in the application:

1. (Previously presented) A process for preparing a compound of formula I:

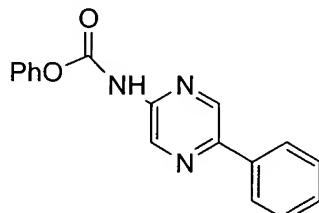


I

comprising coupling a compound of formula II with a compound of formula III in the presence of an organic base selected from the group consisting of NBu₃, Me₂NBu and Me₂NBn in a solvent system selected from the group consisting of MeCN, MeCN/water and DMF/water.



II



III

2. (Canceled)

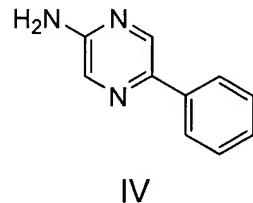
3. (Canceled)

4. (Previously presented) The process of Claim 1 further comprising the step of combining 2-amino-5-phenylpyrazine (IV) and phenyl chloroformate in MeCN to yield the compound of formula III.

5. (Canceled)

REPLY UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.116
EXPEDITED PROCEDURE
TECHNOLOGY CENTER – 1743

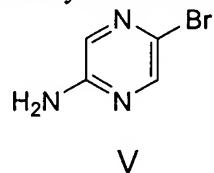
6. (Currently amended) The A process for preparing a compound of formula III of Claim 4 further comprising the step of combining 2-amino-5-bromopyrazine (V) and phenyl boronic acid in an organic solvent system in the presence of a catalyst to yield the compound of formula IV.



7. (Original) The process of Claim 6 wherein the catalyst is selected from the group consisting of $\text{PdCl}_2\text{-dppf}\cdot\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$, $\text{Pd}(\text{PPh}_3)_4$, $\text{Pd}(\text{OAc})/\text{PPh}_3$, $\text{Cl}_2\text{Pd}[(\text{Pet}_3)]_2$, $\text{Pd}(\text{DIPHOS})_2$, $\text{Cl}_2\text{Pd}(\text{Bipy})$, $[\text{PdCl}(\text{Ph}_2\text{PCH}_2\text{PPh}_2)]_2$, $\text{Cl}_2\text{Pd}[\text{P}(\text{o-tol})_3]_2$, $\text{Pd}_2(\text{dba})_3/\text{P}(\text{o-tol})_3$, $\text{Pd}_2(\text{dba})/\text{P}(\text{furyl})_3$, $\text{Cl}_2\text{Pd}[\text{P}(\text{furyl})_3]_2$, $\text{Cl}_2\text{Pd}(\text{PMePh}_2)_2$, $\text{Cl}_2\text{Pd}[\text{P}(4\text{-F-Ph})_3]_2$, $\text{Cl}_2\text{Pd}[\text{P}(\text{C}_6\text{F}_6)_3]_2$, $\text{Cl}_2\text{Pd}[\text{P}(\text{-COOH-Ph})(\text{Ph})_2]_2$, $\text{Cl}_2\text{Pd}[\text{P}(4\text{-COOH-Ph})(\text{Ph})_2]_2$.

8. (Original) The process of Claim 7 wherein the catalyst is selected from the group consisting of $\text{PdCl}_2\text{-dppf}\cdot\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$, $\text{Pd}(\text{PPh}_3)_4$, $\text{Cl}_2\text{Pd}[\text{P}(4\text{-F-Ph})_3]_2$, $\text{Cl}_2\text{Pd}[\text{P}(4\text{-COOH-Ph})(\text{Ph})_2]_2$.

9. (Original) The process of Claim 6 further comprising the step of combining 2-aminopyrazine and a bromination agent to yield the compound of formula V.



10. (Original) The process of Claim 9 wherein the bromination agent is selected from the group consisting of Br_2 , NBS , Bu_4NBr_3 , N-bromo acetamide and $1,3\text{-dibromo-5,5-dimethylhydantoin}$.

11. (Original) The process of Claim 10 wherein the bromination agent is selected from the group consisting of NBS and $1,3\text{-dibromo-5,5-dimethylhydantoin}$.